

Senate Resolution 477

By: Senator Brown of the 26th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 11, 2009, as Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Day at the state capitol; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., was founded at Howard University on
4 November 17, 1911, by three students, Brother Oscar J. Cooper, M.D., Brother Frank
5 Coleman, Ph.D., and Brother Edgar A. Love, D.D., and Brother Ernest E. Just, Ph.D., who
6 served as their faculty advisor; and

7 WHEREAS, on December 1, 1919, Raymond G. Robinson traveled to Atlanta, Georgia, at
8 his own expense, to help Brother Harold Thomas establish a chapter of Omega Psi Phi
9 Fraternity, Inc., which was composed of professional men of selected students from
10 Morehouse College, Atlanta University, Clark College, and Gammon Theological Seminary;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, the Eta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., was founded in Atlanta,
13 Georgia, on December 1, 1919, by Harold H. Thomas, Horace A. Hodges, Harvey Smith, and
14 Lawrence R. Harper with the aid of Raymond G. Robinson, the Fraternity's seventh Grand
15 Basileus, and was chartered on December 27 of that same year; and

16 WHEREAS, Eta Chapter was the first chapter of any black Greek letter organization to be
17 founded and chartered in the State of Georgia; and

18 WHEREAS, Brothers from the institutions that made up Eta Chapter eventually established
19 their own chapters: Omicron at Gammon Theological Seminary (1921); Psi at Morehouse
20 (1921); Tau at Atlanta University (1922); and Beta Psi at Clark College (1923), leaving Eta
21 Chapter for graduates; and

22 WHEREAS, under the leadership of Grand Basileus J. Alston Atkins (1922-1923), the
23 Fraternity developed a new naming scheme for undergraduate and graduate chapters and Eta

24 Chapter was renamed Eta Omega Chapter in 1923, "The Mother Pearl of the Seventh
25 District" of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.; and

26 WHEREAS, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., has established 20 undergraduate chapters and
27 23 graduate chapters in Georgia; and

28 WHEREAS, many members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., have distinguished
29 themselves in several different areas of service, to wit: Benjamin E. Mays, noted educator
30 and distinguished President of Morehouse College; Vernon Jordan, an internationally
31 distinguished attorney; Thurbert E. Baker, the first African American Attorney General in
32 the State of Georgia; Dr. David Satcher, 16th Surgeon General; and Dr. Carter G. Woodson,
33 black historian and founder of Black History Month; and

34 WHEREAS, other Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., who served the citizens of
35 Georgia include Jesse Hill, the first African American appointed to the Georgia Board of
36 Regents; and Eldridge McMillan, the second African American appointed, the first African
37 American to chair, and, with his service of over 30 years, the longest serving member of the
38 Georgia Board of Regents; and

39 WHEREAS, Georgia has produced two Grand Basilei of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.,
40 Harold Thomas and Mosses C. Norman; and three First Vice Grand Basilei, John Calhoun,
41 Jesse O. Thomas, and Joe Brooks; and

42 WHEREAS, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity chapters have raised over \$1 million for scholarships
43 granted to Georgia students; and

44 WHEREAS, there are Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., who serve in the Georgia
45 Legislature, including Brother Representative Carl Von Epps, (1966, Psi Chapter); Brother
46 Representative Joe Heckstall (1967, Kappa Epsilon Chapter); Brother Representative
47 Winfred J. Dukes (1975, Gamma Zeta Chapter); Brother Representative Calvin Smyre (1980,
48 Lambda Iota Chapter); and Brother Representative Quincy Murphy (1976, Psi Omega
49 Chapter); and

50 WHEREAS, the Brother Legislators were assisted in the development of this the first annual
51 day of legislative recognition of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., in the State of Georgia by
52 Brother Dr. H. Benjamin Williams (1962, Beta Gamma Chapter); Brother Benjamin Hill
53 (1972, Tau Psi Chapter); Brother Jason Jackson (2001, Eta Omega Chapter); Brother

54 Daymetrie Williams (2003, Beta Psi Chapter); Brother Royce Collins (2007, Lambda Phi
55 Chapter); and Brother Kenneth English (2008, Eta Omega Chapter) and coordinated by
56 Brother William S. Cannon V (1972, Eta Omega Chapter).

57 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
58 recognize Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and commend the cardinal principles of Manhood,
59 Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift endorsed by its members and their exemplary public
60 service.

61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Wednesday, March 11, 2009, is recognized as Omega
62 Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Day at the state capitol.

63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is directed to transmit
64 appropriate copies of this resolution to State Representative James Cistrunk, Seventh District
65 Representative Keith Jackson, and Grand Basilius Warren Lee.